

MINUTES
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 20, 2005
REGULAR SESSION

Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen convened in open session at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Belmont Town Hall. All members were present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

The Board of Selectmen informed the public that today was Acting Assistant Town Administrator Becky Vose's last day working for the Town. The Board thanked Ms. Vose for her contribution to the Town during a critical transitional time.

Discussion of Human Rights Commission Report

Human Rights Commission Chair Garrett Barry and commission members Judy Feins and Art Heron appeared before the Selectmen to present and discuss the commission's annual report.

Mr. Barry summarized the commission's main activities of the past 10 months which include a Town-wide survey, participation in Town Day and Martin Luther King Day events, and dissemination of information about the Commission to town residents.

Present members of the Human Rights Commission indicated that the commission is not ready to set long-term goals for itself yet as it is currently focusing on new appointments and on processing its survey results.

Discussion of Purecoat Planning Committee Report

Purecoat Planning Committee Chair Noah Sachs and Scott Ferson appeared before the Selectmen to update the Board on its investigation of any health hazards at the Purecoat North site.

Mr. Sachs pointed out that two separate releases of hazardous substances have been reported to the Department of Environmental Protection and that adequate investigative and testing efforts are needed to fully characterize the contamination level.

Mr. Sachs reviewed the following recommendations from the Committee: To conduct more sample testing on and near the Purecoat North property to identify any contamination, to hire an environmental officer on a consulting basis to ensure quality of such testing, to draft a new hazardous materials town bylaw, and to consider rezoning alternatives for future re-use of the property.

The Board moved: to direct the Town Administrator, subject to availability of funds and through the appropriation procurement process, to retain the services of a consultant under the Purecoat Planning Commission's supervision and in close collaboration with the Board of Health to advise on issues within an estimated cost of up to \$21,000.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to direct the Town Administrator to invite Purecoat North representatives to appear before the Board of Selectmen for a discussion of re-use for the property.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen urged Mr. Sachs to continue to work in concert with and to utilize the valuable expertise of the Board of Health while working on this project.

The Board of Selectmen recommended that the Purecoat Planning Commission continue to work on drafting a new hazardous material bylaw in conjunction with Town Counsel and with Board of Health officials.

The Board also moved: to direct the Town Administrator to expand the contract to include an additional \$10,000 in funds to allow the new contractor to conduct sample testings as well as to review and provide advice on ongoing environmental response actions being undertaken at the site.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to renew the Commission's charge for another year, as requested by Mr. Sachs.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Presentation of Permanent Audit Committee

Permanent Audit Committee Chair Ernie Fay and members Barbara Hagg and Floyd Carman appeared before the Selectmen to request that the Board approve their recommendation to select Powers and Sullivan as the Town's new financial audit services provider. The projected cost for a five-year contract with Powers and

Sullivan is \$235,000 over the next five years. The Town's current 5-year contract with auditing firm KPMG expired on June 30, 2004.

The Board moved: to approve the Permanent Audit Committee's recommendation to extend a five-year contract to Powers and Sullivan to provide audit services for the Town of Belmont.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Waverley Fire Station RFP

Town Administrator Tom Younger updated the Board of Selectmen on the review process which he conducted with the assistance of Planning Coordinator Jeffrey Wheeler, for his final RFP recommendation for the Waverley Fire station project. Planning Coordinator Jeffrey Wheeler who has been out due to illness was not able to attend this discussion.

Mr. Younger recommended that the Town select Urbanica Inc. of Boston as the winning bidder for reasons which include; the purchase price structure (ensures payment of \$600,000 to the Town by Labor Day), a more detailed timeline made available for the whole project, more expertise dealing with municipal building conversions, preservation of all historical features of the whole structure, and the inclusion of green space in their proposal.

The Board moved: to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to select Urbanica, Inc. as the winning bidder for the Waverley Square Fire Station project.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Boards and Committees

The Board moved: to reappoint Karl Haglund to the Planning Board.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Jenny Fallon to the Planning Board for a three year term.

The motion passed (2-1), with Selectman Firenze opposing.

Selectman Firenze moved: to appoint Walter McLaughlin to the Planning Board.

The motion was rejected (2-1), with Chairman Solomon and Selectman Brownsberger opposing.

The Board moved: to appoint Sami Baghdady to the Planning Board for a one year term.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Resident Francis Aguilar appeared before the Board of Selectmen to express his opposition to the reappointment of Mr. Michael Smith to the Historic District Commission and to encourage the Board of Selectmen to break up the existing core group of long-term members by appointing new members to the HDC.

The Board of Selectmen stated that it took serious notice of Mr. Aguilar's concern.

HDC Co-Chair Lydia Phippen-Ogilby appeared before the Board of Selectmen to express her support for the reelection of Mr. Smith.

The Board moved: to reappoint Linn Hobbs and Michael Smith to the Historic District Committee; and to appoint Peter Gunness as alternate member.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectman Firenze stated that he would prefer to see Michael Smith appointed as alternate and Peter Gunness appointed as full member.

The Board moved: to reappoint Peter Pomponi, Stephanie King and Kathleen Ruane to the Recreation Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Gloria Leipzig to the Belmont Housing Trust.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Donna Brescia, Paul Santos and Vincent De Novellis to the Vision 21 Implementation Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to promote Peg Velie to full member of the Conservation Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to promote Carolyn Bishop to full member of the Conservation Commission.

The motion passed (2-1), with Selectman Firenze opposing.

The Board moved: to appoint Stewart Sanders, Christine McVay and Monica King as associate members to the Conservation Commission; and to reappoint Ruth Foster as an associate member.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectman Firenze stated that he would favor reducing the number of associates on the Conservation Commission. The Selectmen noted a personal friction between Conservation Commission members Carolyn Bishop and Ruth Foster.

The Board moved: to appoint Hildy Dvorak to the Council on Aging.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Susan Smart to the Cultural Council; and to reappoint Carlha Vickers.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Reginald Gibson, Moez Rawji, Donna Ruvolo, and Connie Williams to the Human Rights Commission.

The motion was approved (2-1), with Selectman Firenze opposing.

The Board moved: to appoint Carla Moynihan to the McLean Land Management Committee as Special Municipal employee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Robert Keefe to the Permanent Audit Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Richard Waring to the Personnel Board.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to appoint Robert Watson to the Insurance Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Sinclair Weeks to the Shade Tree Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen discussed recommendations made by Youth Commission member David Alper relative to the governance and make-up of the commission, which include limiting the total number of members to five, and creating a sub-commission made of youth members, with one designated member liaising back to the Youth Commission on a monthly basis.

The Board moved: to appoint David Alper, Charles Laverty and Laurie Graham to the Youth Commission; and further to adopt Dr. Alper's recommendations.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Paula Caruso and Michael Gavin to the Education Scholarship Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to reappoint Frank French to the Water Advisory Board.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Tom Younger provided his weekly report on ongoing town events.

The Board moved: to lift the hiring freeze at this time and allow the Town Administrator to fill vacant positions as they arise.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Memorandum from Public Works Director re: Reserve Fund Transfer Request

The Board moved: to approve the Public Works Director's request for a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$393,093.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

The Board moved: to refer to the Planning Board how to further respond to the problem of teardowns replacements in all areas of the Town.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen discussed the possibility of implementing resident parking across town.

Mr. Younger will explore this subject further with Community Development Director Glenn Clancy.

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, negotiations with non-union personnel, and possibility of litigation; and further that the Board will not return to open session.

The Board adjourned its open session at 10:45 p.m.

Thomas G. Younger
Town Administrator